

- [Home](#)
- [About Me](#)
- [My Articles](#)
- [Pater Family](#)
- [Bergmeister Family](#)

 Search

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Feeds:

[Posts](#)

[Comments](#)

Surname Saturday: ECHERER

October 17, 2009 by [Donna Pointkouski](#)

Surname – ECHERER

Meaning/Origin – I have not found a definitive answer on the origin of the ECHERER name, but it may be related to ECKER or EGGER. According to the *Dictionary of German Names, Second Edition* by Hans Bahlow, these names are found frequently near Munich and they mean “from the dwelling place on the corner (*uff der Egg*)”. The name may also be derived from the place name Eger or Egerer.

Countries of Origin – The surname Echerer is German. According to the [World Names Profiler](#), the countries with the highest frequency per million residents are Austria with only 2.58 individuals per million, and Germany with .82. It is not a very common name. The next highest countries (and their respective frequency per million) are the United States (.13) and Spain (.1).

Spelling Variations - As noted above, the “CH” is often noted as “GG” or “CK”. In my own family, in the earlier records the name was spelled EGER, EGGER, or EGGERER and stabilized as ECHERER in the 1700s. My grandmother’s sister thought her mother’s name was ECKERT based on the pronunciation, and she adopted that variation as her surname.

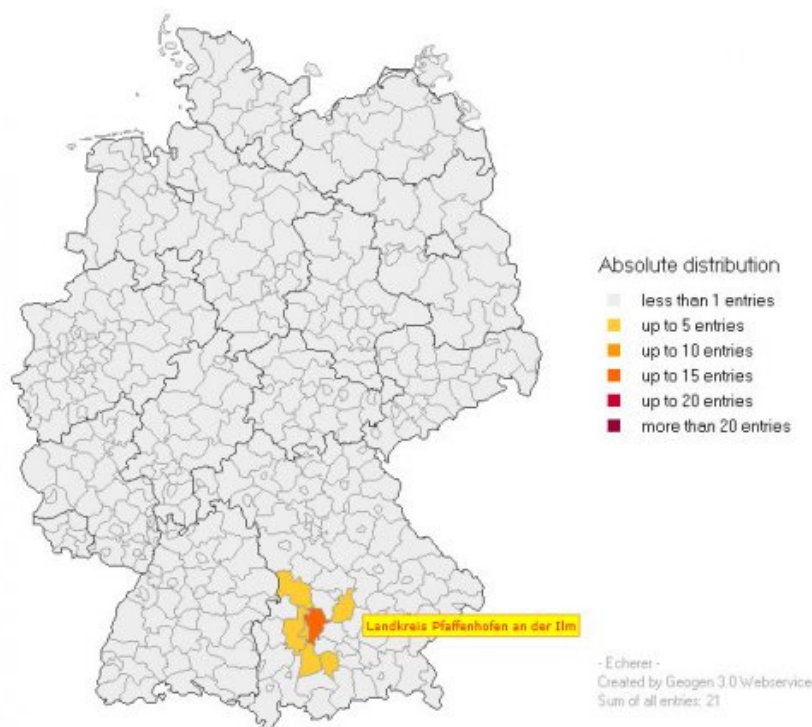
Surname Maps – The following maps illustrate the frequency of the ECHERER surname in Austria and Germany. According to <http://www.dynastree.com/maps/detail/echerer.html>, there are about 50 people with the surname in the United States, with the heaviest concentration in South Carolina.



Distribution of the ECHERER surname in Austria.

SOURCE: Geogen Surname Mapping database, <http://christoph.stoepel.net/geogen/en/Default.aspx>, accessed October 11, 2009.

In Austria, the name was found in three different counties.



Distribution of the ECHERER surname in Germany.

SOURCE: Geogen Surname Mapping database, <http://christoph.stoepel.net/geogen/en/Default.aspx>, accessed October 11, 2009.

In Germany, there are about 56 people in seven different counties, all located in close proximity in Bavaria. The highlighted district to the far right is Pfaffenhofen an der Ilm, the town from which my Echerer family came. A heavier concentration of Echerer's is just to the left in Landkreis Aichach-Friedberg.

Famous Individuals with the Surname – [Mercedes Echerer](#) (b. 16 May 1963) is an Austrian actress and politician. Wikipedia has a [list of several famous people](#) with the EGERER surname, a variation of ECHERER.

My Family – My Echerer family comes from Pfaffenhofen an der Ilm in Bavaria, and it is the surname of my great-grandmother, Maria Echerer Bergmeister. Her family history goes back for generations in the town of Pfaffenhofen. In fact, I have not yet completed the research. The church records begin in the 1500's, and I am certain that I can continue to trace the family to the earliest history of the town.

My earliest ancestor so far with this name is Leonard EGERER, a shoemaker born in the 1630's (the spelling transitions to ECHERER in the late 1700s). My line of descent is as follows (all born and died in Pfaffenhofen a.d. Ilm): Leonard (b. 1677) > Bernhard (1721-1778) > Ignaz (1763-?) > Ignaz (1803-1874) > Karl (1846-post 1882) > Maria (1875-1919). Maria married Joseph Bergmeister in 1897 and they immigrated to the United States. More information on their children can be found on the [Bergmeister Family Page](#). Maria had at least one brother who was named Karl after his father. Karl was born on 28 June 1878.

My Research Challenges -My Echerer line has been one of the easiest to trace back so far, and one of the few that reaches back to the 1600s. My challenges are 1) to continue with the research until the records end, 2) discover what happened to my great-grandmother's brother, Karl (do his descendants still live in Pfaffenhofen?), and 3) attempt to "connect" the various Echerer families to one common ancestor (see Other Echerer Families below).

The surname Echerer as written in German "Sütterlin" script.

To see your surname in Sütterlin script, go to [Write Your Name in Suetterlin](#). This script was mostly used in the 20th Century, but it shows the difficulty of researching in foreign records.

Other Echerer Families – As you can see from the maps, the name is very uncommon. Therefore, we all must be related,

right? One possible “cousin” (at least that’s what we call each other) is the Echerer family currently located in South Carolina. Scott Echerer has done an excellent job of documenting the various Echerer branches in the United States on his page [USA Echerer Family Tree](#). Scott’s ancestors immigrated to the U.S. in 1930 from Neukirchen, a town in Bavaria close to Pfaffenhofen. I have not yet taken the time to research the Neukirchen Echerer’s to see if there is any connection to the Pfaffenhofen family back in time. Scott still has cousins in Bavaria from this line. Scott also documents another U.S. Echerer family descended from Anton Echerer from Bohemia.

In addition, there is the [Echerer Family](#) website run by Michael Echerer from Munich.

Surname Message Boards – None, but there is an [Egerer](#) board.

Miscellaneous - The American Soundex code for Echerer is E266. There are 6 individuals in the U.S. Social Security Death Index with the surname Echerer (none are related to me).

Links to all posts about my Echerer family can be found [here](#).

This post is #2 of an ongoing series about surnames. To see all posts in the series, click [here](#).

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- [Pater Family](#)

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- [October 2009](#) (9)
- [September 2009](#) (9)
- [August 2009](#) (9)
- [July 2009](#) (9)
- [June 2009](#) (8)
- [May 2009](#) (6)
- [April 2009](#) (6)
- [March 2009](#) (10)
- [February 2009](#) (4)
- [January 2009](#) (12)
- [December 2008](#) (12)
- [November 2008](#) (14)
- [October 2008](#) (11)
- [September 2008](#) (13)
- [August 2008](#) (17)
- [July 2008](#) (10)
- [June 2008](#) (6)
- [May 2008](#) (6)
- [April 2008](#) (12)
- [March 2008](#) (14)
- [February 2008](#) (19)
- [January 2008](#) (12)

• Top Posts

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- [My Grandfather Served in the CCC...Sort Of – Part 2](#)
- [Philadelphia Marriage Indexes Online](#)
- [Show and Tell: A Bavarian Beer Stein](#)
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- [Polish Names and Feast Days](#)

• Categories

- [Books & Things](#) (18)
 - [Books/Book Reviews](#) (11)
 - [Libraries](#) (1)
 - [Magazines](#) (2)
 - [Poetry](#) (5)
- [Carnivals \(non-photo\)](#) (51)
 - [Carnival of Central and Eastern European Genealogy](#) (4)
 - [Carnival of Genealogy](#) (43)
 - [Carnival of Irish Culture and Heritage](#) (2)
 - [Graveyard Rabbit Carnival](#) (1)
- [Genealogical Records](#) (27)
 - [Cemeteries](#) (2)
 - [Census Records](#) (5)
 - [Church Records](#) (4)
 - [German Records](#) (4)
 - [Philadelphia Records](#) (5)
 - [Polish Records](#) (8)
 - [Research Plan](#) (1)
 - [Unusual Genealogy Resources](#) (5)
- [History](#) (26)
- [Holidays](#) (10)
- [Immigration](#) (9)

- [Naturalization](#) (1)
 - [Passenger Lists](#) (8)
- [Locations](#) (23)
 - [Bavarian Towns](#) (9)
 - [New Jersey](#) (1)
 - [Philadelphia](#) (7)
 - [Polish Towns](#) (6)
- [Miscellaneous](#) (86)
 - [Donna's Picks](#) (16)
 - [Fun Stuff](#) (26)
 - [Reader Poll](#) (1)
 - [The Humor of It Column](#) (7)
- [Names & Surnames](#) (68)
 - [Bergmeister](#) (24)
 - [Dallmeier](#) (1)
 - [Echerer / Eggerer](#) (7)
 - [Fischer](#) (2)
 - [Höck](#) (2)
 - [Kizoweter](#) (3)
 - [Miller](#) (9)
 - [Nigg / Nick](#) (4)
 - [Pater](#) (12)
 - [Piontkowski / Pointkouski](#) (18)
 - [Pluta](#) (4)
 - [Slesinski / Ślesięski](#) (9)
 - [Surname Saturday](#) (3)
 - [Zawodny](#) (17)
 - [Zinsmeister](#) (2)
 - [Świerczyński](#) (1)
- [Online Tools](#) (5)
- [Personal Reflection](#) (28)
- [Photographs](#) (41)
 - [Festival of Postcards](#) (4)
 - [Photo Mystery](#) (3)
 - [Smile for the Camera Carnival](#) (15)
 - [Wordless Wednesday](#) (1)
- [Research Tips](#) (20)
 - [Interviews with the Experts](#) (7)

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 Pater
 Piontkowski
 Pluta
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Pfaffenhofen an der Ilm
Puch
and surrounding area

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Mszczonów
Ślesin
Warszawa
Wilczyn
Żyrardów

United States:

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Blog by Donna Pointkouski

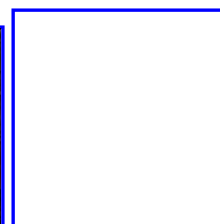
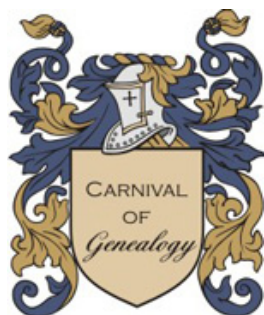
Title by William Shakespeare

Whereof what's past is prologue, what to come

In yours and my discharge.

The Tempest Act II, Scene 1

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